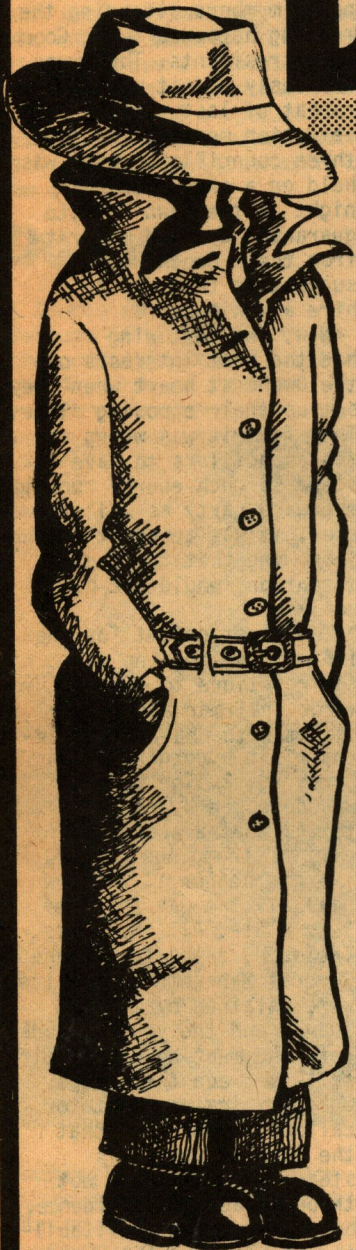


HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

DHSS Heavy Mob move in

DISBAND THE SCC!



At 9.30am on Monday 7 March a unified picket of claimants and DHSS workers will protest the arrival of a Specialist Claims Control (SCC) team at the Sylvester Street DHSS office.

The SCC was created by a ministerial directive in 1981 to find a "cost effective" way to curb abuses of the Social Security system. Where local officers only act on information received, the SCC adopt a search and destroy approach to fraud.

The 7 member team will lock themselves into a small office at Sylvester Street and check up to 10% of case papers. They will have to find the files for themselves since staff at Sylvester St. are refusing to co-operate.

A union spokesperson told HPP: "Quite a lot of members are concerned and cross that the SCC will ruin our relationship with claimants. It's bad enough as it is. We

want claimants to know that it isn't us doing this but an outside group."

The SCC's methods have attracted criticism from both claimant's and DHSS staff unions. Shareen Campbell, assistant secretary of the East London branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said: "We are opposed to the 'guilty until proven innocent' methods employed by the Specialist Claims Control. Their investigations are carried out on the flimsiest of evidence or no evidence at all.

In one case in Liverpool an SCC interviewer told a claimant accused of working that if he withdrew his claim, he would hear no more about it and the DHSS would not prosecute. The claimant had previously served prison sentences for non DHSS offences. After taking advice he continued to receive benefit payments without being harassed.

A DHSS spokesperson for the London North Region admitted to HPP: "It doesn't encourage people to claim benefit. When someone signs on one of the conditions they must accept is that we will ask sensitive questions."

He also accepted that there is a very fine border area between asking sensitive questions, intrusion of privacy and intimidation. The DHSS maintain that no complaints against the SCC have been substantiated. They say that most accusations are the result of sour grapes. Most allegations boil down to a claimant's word against an SCC officer's.

The SCC preys on and inflames the sexist bias of the social security system. SCC officers receive special 'snoop' training in how to look through letter boxes and how to spot evidence of cohabitation. Intimidating single women with children is an SCC speciality.

In one case documented by the
Continued on page 8.



Fear of Force

More and more people in Hackney are demanding an independent enquiry into policing in the borough. It is now official Council policy, as well as that of a number of community organisations and trade unions. If the Home Secretary refuses to set one up (he is the only person who can authorise an official enquiry with powers over the police) it is quite likely that the Council itself will do so unofficially.

This pressure has come about mainly as a result of the death of Colin Roach, who died from shotgun wounds in the doorway of Stoke Newington police station in January. Police treatment of Colin's family, the past record of Stoke Newington police and their reluctance to come up with any other satisfactory explanation has led to many claims that Colin was killed by the police. In the words of his father, James Roach: "My son did not commit suicide. He had too much to live for."

INQUEST

It is most unlikely that the inquest - which will not now be held until April will come up with a reason for Colin's death. Inquests have long been criticised for their inability to get all the details of suspicious deaths, particularly when the police have been involved. Perhaps the most notorious

case of recent years was that of Blair Peach, who was seen by many witnesses to have been struck on the head by police, but whose killer was never identified.

Colin's death is in many ways just a symptom, a symbol of how bad relations have become between the police and the community in Hackney, particularly the black community. Even unpublished figures from the Police Foundation - a research body which is sympathetic to the police - apparently show that there is little public confidence in their ability to solve crime in the area. So despite the bravado that they display in public - and their attempt to buy off criticism in the Hackney Gazette by letting them have an "exclusive series on law enforcement in Hackney" there is little doubt that they think that demands for proper accountability may become unstoppable.

The Council's statement of intent not to pay the police precept of £4 million this year is just a gesture. The law does not allow them to withhold the money, and, this year at least, they are not going to break the law. But by making the gesture they are indicating that they are paying up under protest, and are joining other London boroughs who have already reached the same conclusion: they pay over-ratepayers money each year to the

Continued on page 8.

IF YOU ARE VISITED BY THE SPECIALIST CLAIMS CONTROL TEAM:

- Ask to see identification and note names of SCC officers.
- Refuse admission without 48 hours written notice.
- Sign and say nothing.
- Fill out the statement below and give it to the SCC.
- Get a representative to go with you to any interview.
- Contact the Hackney Centre for the Unemployed for support.

Statement

I have no change of circumstances to report regarding my entitlement to Supplementary Benefit. As a Specialist Claims Control member you have no jurisdiction in the administration of my claim. If my claim is being investigated I shall only speak to an officer of the DHSS permanent staff. I am willing to do this and ask that I be notified in advance of any interview so that I can arrange to be represented. This statement is in accordance with my legal rights.

NAME _____ DATE _____

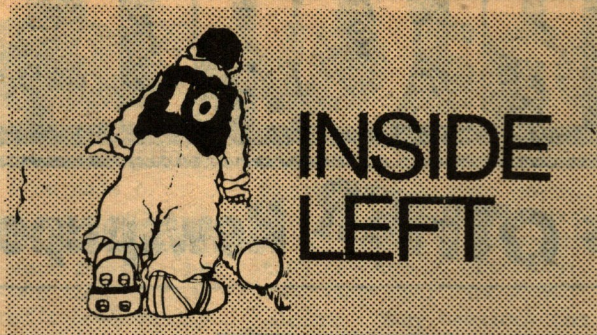
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INSIDE

**Redprint
revealed**

GOING
LOCAL
LATEST
see p.3

Next Dance



By popular demand, this month sees the return of *INSIDE LEFT* to these pages after a spell on the Denis Healey Health Farm and a course in tact and ball room dancing at the Eric Heffer School of Charm. Pounds lighter and highly practised in the political waltz, your correspondent brings you a feast of entertainment in a double bill of articles.

It was, of course, too much to hope for. Peace was supposed to have broken out all over the borough as a result of the accession of the new generation to power in Hackney. But we are back today, it seems, to the kind of internecine struggle peculiarly favoured by the Labour Party. Coronation Street has nothing on the ramifications of a struggle inside Hackney's Labour Parties. The counterpart to the clandestine romance between Deirdre and Mike is the tactical alliance between the so-called hard left and the so-called soft left in Hackney North and Stoke Newington Constituency Labour Party General Management Committee (or HN&SNCLPGMC for short). They're called so-called hard left and so-called soft left because that's what they call each other, not what they call themselves. If you see what I mean. I'm not sure I even follow that myself. This alliance has led some people even to attend the

caucus meetings for both separate groups.

This meant that the elections at the GMC were just the most tremendous fun, Samantha. Votes of thanks were moved to everybody who was everybody, even Gerry Ross, who has just come out - not as either a debutant or a closet queen but the next best thing, a Freemason. He hasn't actually been very keen on this display of public nudity, but as he hasn't yet denied it - in fact he's been threatening to take Peter Kahn outside and do him over - it's pretty well certain that he is carrying around his apron and slippers in his big black briefcase.

RUMOURS

Meanwhile persistent rumours surround no less an august personage as the Leader. Now, this column yields to no one in its adoration of our marathon man. People even used to think that he wrote this stuff - though how they thought these velvet phrases were drafted by a poly lecturer, I don't know. However, I have to say that there may be a plot.

Well, where do you think it will come from? Where is it brewing? Certainly it won't, at first, be coming from former leader John Kotz. In May, he will be dumped somewhat unceremoniously from

his chair of the Economic Development Committee and replaced, it is said, by Tony Milwood, the chief whip. Johnny could form a back bench alliance with another ex-senior chair Steve Scott who will be returning if he wins the Brownwood by-election. If there are malcontents amongst the current leadership, then they might just join up with the Kotzites. We can expect Chatham ward to be once more the fulcrum on which the Council pivots.

Two more changes can be expected in May. The position of deputy leader is to be abolished, for no apparent reason whatsoever. It could be said that the deputy leader is like the Vice President of the USA, just a heartbeat away from the ultimate goal. And, of course, under the old regime that was certainly the case. Kotz himself made the leadership effectively his own, when Martin Ottolangui was ill for the best part of two years. However, Peter Kahn does not apparently have such grandiose dreams, and is supposed to be content with chairing the public services committee.

The other change is no change. Despite the Council's self-styled commitment to equal opportunities, and description of itself as a radical socialist borough, there are no women chairs of committees. Even the old guard managed to have women as chairs of leisure services and social services. The most that this Council has done so far is to set up a sub-committee - not even a full committee - to develop a women's rights policy. That is not nearly good enough and something should be done. The usual time for such changes to be made would be at the beginning of the new Council year in May, but no positive discrimination policy is to be put forward - for Councillors at least.

Family Affair

The 'Old Guard-New Left' battle within the Labour Party has been waged in other places than Bermondsey recently, though a little less spectacularly. Last month, Hackney's Eastdown ward Labour Party held their annual General Meeting, amid wild rumours of a takeover bid by a left wing slate. But the outcome of the meeting turned out to be a strong vindication of the old maxim, 'blood is thicker than water'.

New members of Eastdown ward Labour Party who turn up to their first meeting usually get the impression that they are attending a family gathering rather than a political forum. And they wouldn't be far wrong, because the three people who hold the most important posts in the party - chair, secretary and treasurer - are all related. And, by happy coincidence, the three councillors are also in the same family.

Head of the family is Bob Owen. He's been a councillor for Eastdown ward since 1956 and party Treasurer for longer than anyone can remember. His wife Matilda (affectionately known as Tilly) has been a councillor for...oh, well, no-one really knows. Their political spirit was passed on to their daughter Linda, a councillor and Secretary of the party. And to complete the family, Linda's husband Barry Hibberd is the party's chair.

MUM & DAD

This rather incestuous involvement in local politics can lead to some confusion among new Labour Party members, when councillors are referred to as Mum and Dad at ward meetings.

Some people have referred to the Owens as 'the mafia'. Now, this is an uncharitable opinion, but it must be said that the way they maintain their support does have echoes of the tactics of the 'cosa nostra' (or 'casa nostra', for the

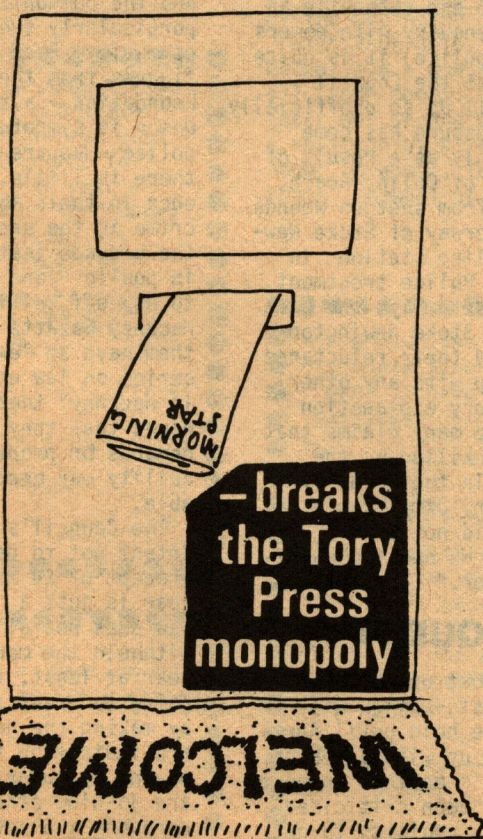
Italian initiates). Well, last month's AGM happened to have been held in a hall not a million miles away from Gooch House estate (home of the Owens and base for their most loyal supporters) although, for constitutional reasons we can't reveal its exact whereabouts. And the large majority of party members attending the meeting happened to be Gooch House residents. The Owens obviously didn't want a repeat of last year's selection meeting for the three councillors which was held on a snowy winter's night at the Town Hall; to guarantee a solid majority from their Gooch House supporters they had to hire a minibus.

Now, the left wing had the best interests of the Owens at heart when they set up their opposing slate. They felt it was wrong for the councillors to have to spend so much energy running the ward party as well. However, it was apparent to the left wing that their good intentions would not be realised.

The first defeat for the left at the meeting was their failure to change the words chairman and vice-chairman to chair and vice-chair, in accordance with party rules. The motion was defeated by 46 votes to 24, to the accompaniment of thumpings on tables.

From then on it was downhill all the way for the left slate. All the posts, including delegates to the General Management Committee, were retained by the Old Guard, and the young bloods left the meeting with their tails between their legs. One political commentator callously remarked that the Owen's support is steadily dwindling - not through lack of confidence, but through the inevitability of age. But the Owens are still in control, and the moral of this tale is obvious: the family that plots together, stays together.

Read the Morning Star every day



available from your newsagent

EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN

HACKNEY HEALTH EMERGENCY is a new campaigning group set up by the Trades Council, the Community Health Council and the Borough Council.

St Matthews, St Johns, St Leonards, the German and the Mothers hospitals are planned to go. Many hundreds of jobs will go and people will have further to travel to the remaining hospitals. Community care schemes which could benefit people when they leave hospital or keep them out of institutions altogether are not going to be given extra resources to cope with the demands. The elderly and handicapped and the mentally ill will all suffer as well as their families.

Hackney Health Emergency has the following aims:

1. Maintenance of St. Leonards as an acute hospital and the boosting of the accident and emergency department so that it is fully functioning.
2. No closure of St. Matthews, the German or Mothers Hospitals, unless there are no losses of beds and provision is made for better serviced, higher grade accommodation within easy access to the community.
3. No alterations to the location of Hackney Health services without the provision of a regular, efficient bus service.
4. No transference of jobs without the provision of Hospital transport and creches to compensate.
5. Rejection of the District

Plan which would lead to so many job losses. Instead there should be more investment of District money in Hackney to bring better services and more jobs.

6. Increased expenditure on local community based services so as to provide people with easy access to treatment for chronic illness and positive investment in preventative health care.

7. Affirmation of the commitment to a health service that is free to all at the time of need.

If you are able to help the campaign in any way - donations, fundraising, time etc. or would like more information; Hackney Health Emergency can be contacted at 95 Prince George Road, N16.

How tenants pay twice

A rent freeze for council tenants and a 40% cut for those in ex-GLC housing is planned for Hackney this year. This was the outcome of a Housing Services Committee meeting held last month.

The decision has not been finalised yet as it has to do the round of Labour Group, Policy and resources and a full council meeting, where the leadership may yet get the proposal overruled. But the view of Terry Robinson of the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations is that as the proposal was the outcome of a special meeting to decide upon rent levels, the decision ought to be ratified.

Doubts

Doubts remain however because of proposals put to the committee from John Beha the director of finance.

Noting that the average rent increase among inner London boroughs would be at least 85p a week the argument went that "It is the considered opinion of the officers concerned that an increase of less than 85p per week would leave the Council open to possible challenge to the rate or in extreme circumstances to possible surcharge".

Hackney rents are currently among the lowest in London they point out. So it has come to be argued by some, including the council leadership, that a freeze on the higher GLC rents and an increase of 85p for others would be one solution - and quite generous too!

So presumably tenants are supposed to accept this modest increase happy in the knowledge that they are still in relatively cheap accommodation and not sponging so much off the ratepayers?

Terry Robinson of the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations gave a totally different interpretation of the situation to HPP. In fact ratepayers in Hackney do NOT subsidise the tenants.

the Sting

Instead the Council has its accounts organised in a way which conceals the fact that council tenants are really subsidising the rates! Tenants are paying twice for the same service. Such things as refuse collection, maintenance of estate roads etc. are being paid for out of tenants rents and AGAIN from their rates. Many services are being paid for out of the housing revenue account (rent) which should have come from elsewhere. Support for the elderly in sheltered accommodation could be an example here, where the money ought

to be coming from the social services budget, but instead is being taken from the rents.

It turns out that a whole range of services are being provided for tenants, all paid for from the housing account! In addition services and repairs that should be coming from the housing revenue account were often delayed and inadequate.

Looking at all the figures the Fed calculated that based on the cost of the services provided to tenants rents should only average £5 per week. The council has not disputed these figures and have agreed to look into the situation and produce a proper structure for next year.

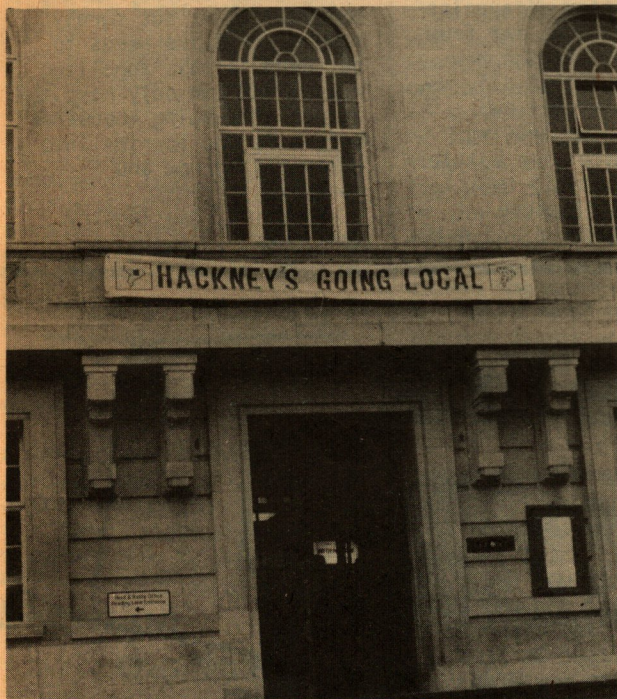
In this context the suggestion that ex-GLC rents be frozen but Hackney rents be increased by 85p this year

doesn't look so generous after all! Terry Robinson sees this as another case of the council wanting to screw its tenants for another year. It seems that the council is relying on the increased income from rents for their general expenditure!

Fight

There can be no denying the need for more money for services in Hackney, but instead of raising rents, there is a need to fight the government who are taking money away from inner city areas like Hackney.

The decision of the Housing Services Committee to freeze rents and reduce ex-GLC rents is therefore a significant victory - if implemented. Help make sure this promise becomes reality by lobbying your councillors NOW.



Pic: Ian Priddey

Hackney's decentralisation plans moved a step forward during February with the production of a draft 'redprint' for the Council's new face. This draft is now in the hands of all Labour Councillors, and is to be discussed at a special meeting of the Labour group during March.

There are, however, still major sticking points, and there is the definite possibility that the whole programme will be dropped completely, because of the inability of the Council and its workforce to agree on the proposals. With this in mind, the Labour group has committed itself to the sensible policy of negotiating its new structure with the trade unions through the present negotiating structure. However, it has not tied its hands as securely as some councillors - notably Charles Clarke, the chair of housing services - wanted, by saying that the current lines of professional and executive accountability have to be respected. In other words the door is now open for the Council to negotiate new methods of working, less hierarchical chains of command and greater accountability to the consumers through elected neighbourhood committees.

This draft redprint will not necessarily be the final form of the proposals. Many councillors and senior officers are apparently still keen on decentralisation being seen as a re-organisation of management, rather than an extension of power to local people. There will be strong pressure to see it watered down before it is presented to the public for another round of consultation. For this reason, HPP is publishing below a brief summary of the draft redprint. Bear in mind, however, that this is necessarily selective and shortened, because the draft is 24 pages long.

There are four basic criteria governing the whole decentralisation programme:

- All services should be controlled from neighbourhood centres, and exceptions need to be justified.
- Power and decision-making in the management of services and staff will be vested in a neighbourhood management team.
- Neighbourhood centres staff will be accountable to an elected local committee, which will play an increasingly important role in controlling Council services and resources.

The Council's services will be redesigned in a number of teams, some providing front-line services, others carrying out important back-up functions. At the neighbourhood level these teams will be co-ordinated by a special Neighbourhood Co-ordination and Information Team which will be directly responsible to the local committee.

There will also be other teams of Council workers to carry out other functions and services operated at the Neighbourhood Centre:

- Family and Personal Support Team
- Community Resource Team
- Housing Support Team
- Environmental Improvement Team
- Local Service Teams, covering such areas as building and maintenance, repairs, play equipment, conveniences, laundries.

- Council main committees will provide broad policy guidelines, but leave considerable room for local autonomy.

Neighbourhood Committees will run the centres in each area. These will assume the actual responsibility for all local services, by increasing the participation of tenants, residents and workers. They will also involve groups of users of the Centre. They will have (for legal reasons) to be constituted as sub-committees of the Policy and Resources Committee of the Council. It is envisaged that they will be composed of something between 20 and 50 people, comprising local ward councillors, street representatives from local residential areas, council workforce representatives and community organisation representatives, with spaces specifically set aside for women, ethnic minorities, pensioners, young people, gay women and

men, non-Council trades unions, local employers and traders, unemployed, disabled and under 5s groups. Ways in which all these groups will be elected will be determined by the local community.

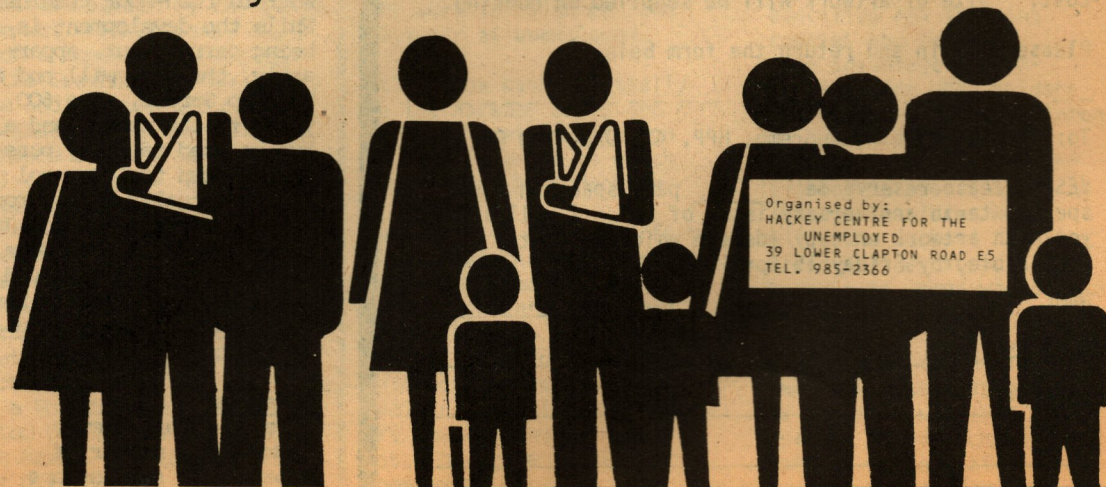
Perhaps the most radical aspects of the draft concern the staff implications. No individual will suffer any lowering of income or worsening conditions of employment. But new working arrangements should make existing status divisions even more obviously anachronistic. It is expected that decentralisation will lead to new opportunities, better working conditions and a continual review of jobs and duties. All present agreements will be recognised throughout discussions and negotiations, however. The redprint is not, however, a document whose purpose is a basis for negotiation with the unions. Those proposals will come later.

REDPRINT OUT

Advertisement

D.H.S.S. SNOOPERS OUT OF HACKNEY! SAY NO TO Specialist Claims Control

PICKET Sylvester Rd. D.H.S.S. Mon. 7th March 9.30.



1983 is going to be a challenging year for LT workers. Uncertainty has been caused by the Fares battle, the new Transport bill and the AMOS application to run a minibus in competition with LT.

However LT budget proposals calling for productivity and efficiency gains are clear enough. LT is facing an economic crisis and management has decided to shift responsibility for the present mess onto the workforce. We will become the scapegoat for management's failure to tackle the real problems.

High fares, traffic congestion, unemployment and increased car usage are causing a decline in passenger mileage. Bus shortages and mechanical problems affect efficiency. IT is also losing up to £34m per year through passenger fraud (about 5% of total fare revenue).

LT's solution to these problems has been to penalise the workforce. The 1983 budget talks of containing and reducing manpower requirements. It says: "The Executive does not believe that

present market conditions indicate any need to improve the pay and conditions of London Transport employees."

The report contains the real threat of compulsory redundancy for "small pockets" of staff. Dr Bright (LT chair) is using the criteria all too common in Tory Britain of equating efficiency with the number of people you make redundant (a la Edwardes & McGregor). But bus staff productivity is largely determined by traffic conditions. A slight road use priority shift from cars to buses would substantially reduce unit costs.

The Bright Sparks on Broadway propose redundancies and massive capital expenditure on one man operated buses which will sit for longer and longer in the same traffic jams with fewer and fewer passengers all trying to pay less and less.

IT workers should not finance management's failure by accepting settlements which do not protect their standard of living. One man buses do not improve service, but merely cause unemployment. That is the real strategy of IT-- and it's a fraud.

The public enquiry into the M11 link road has now begun, accompanied by a flurry of proposals and counter-proposals.

The Department of Transport's plans to run a link road from South Woodford to Hackney Wick is being fought with determination by Hackney council. The outer London boroughs, on the other hand - Waltham Forest and Newham - appear only too eager to press ahead with the plan. Not surprisingly, since it will have the effect of lessening the burden of traffic within their own boundaries at the expense of inner boroughs, Hackney in particular, into which the traffic will be funnelled. Of the objections to the scheme which have been received, most have come from Hackney.

Those opposing the scheme locally have been very disappointed by the lack of support from the GLC. indeed the GLC has confused the issue and pleased no-one by coming up with its own suggestion. This is a watered-down version of the Department of Transport proposal and is for a two-lane highway, with a section running in a tunnel and Leytonstone

High Road as a bus-only street.

This plan has caused a split in the GLC itself with Hackney's three councillors, led by John Carr, in total opposition to it. John Carr has expressed bitter disappointment that the GLC, far from trying to prevent the new road being built at all, was putting forward its own proposals and so leaving Hackney to fight the battle more or less on its own.

The road will cause increased pollution and noise

in Hackney, and also destroy some of the little open space that the borough has, in what is designated a conservation area.

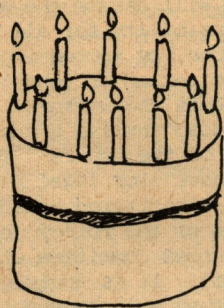
Need in doubt

Quite apart from the damage that the road would undoubtedly cause, doubt is increasing as to whether the road is really necessary. The whole principle behind the road runs counter to any sensible modern traffic plan since it can only encourage more people to use their cars rather than public transport and leave their cars at home. Even more seriously, it would appear that some forecasts do not show a sufficient increase expected in the flow of traffic to justify building such a road in any case.

One suggestion that the whole road could run underground seems highly unlikely to be considered seriously since it is expected to cost three times as much as the original plan, but surely some alternative needs to be found to this appalling road which can only have the effect of dumping thousands more cars and lorries into Hackney's narrow and congested streets.

Meantime, the inquiry continues. . .

TENTH BIRTHDAY ISSUE



HPP's tenth anniversary issue will be published this May, and we are hoping to make it a very special edition. It will, we hope, contain extra pages, retrospective looks at Hackney over the last ten years, selected highlights from East London's premier alternative journalism, pictures, photographs, full-colour supplements, bingo, in-depth political analysis, guest writers, competitions, crosswords, quizzes, reviews, jokes - or at least some of these.

We are offering you now the chance to book advertising space now in this special issue at the most advantageous rates. Space is bound to be in demand - and may even have to be limited! - so make sure that you or your group get your activities displayed to Hackney's most influential audience through this special issue.

Rates are as follows:
 Whole page: £70.00 Half page: £35.00
 One-fifth page: £15.00 One-tenth page: £8.00
 One-twentieth page: £5.00

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YES! Please reserve me _____ page space in the special tenth anniversary issue of HPP. I will supply you with artwork or copy (delete whichever not applicable) by Friday 15 April.

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ORGANISATION

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British Rail's intention to shut down Broad Street station moved closer to realisation at the end of January when the Secretary of State for Transport, David Howell, gave his consent to the proposal. The outcome of the next move, the hearing currently in progress before a House of Lords committee, is expected at any time, but the prospects of saving the station, and indeed the entire City link, seem bleak indeed.

The British Rail proposals, which appear to have been adopted with enthusiasm by the Department of Transport, are for the closure of Broad Street station to allow for the redevelopment of Liverpool street station into a 'modern terminus, with bus and underground interchange facilities and an office and shops complex'.

What then happens to the unfortunate travellers on the North London line and the Watford rush-hour trams? While the development is being carried out, apparently, the line will end at Worship Street, some 600 yards to the north, and a bus be used to ferry passengers down to Liverpool St. Eventually a loop route is planned from Dalston Junction via Graham Road down to the City. An improved interchange is also to be provided at Highbury and Islington.

BR's case
BR's case has however dismissed a number of alternative suggestions and the grounds for the

choices it has made can only be described as shaky.

One of the chief reasons ostensibly claimed for the choice of plan was the cost of alternatives. Hackney wanted the Broad St line transferred to new high-level platforms at Liverpool St. BR claimed this would be exorbitantly expensive. The GLC has however offered to pay the additional cost of the platforms.

Another argument was that the high-level solution would cause considerable delay to the redevelopment. Work done by consultants for Hackney borough suggests that the delay has been greatly exaggerated. Indeed BR's claim that an additional 2½ years would be required, one for building and a possible one and a half for the procedural requirements has been undermined by the perfectly feasible plan from Hackney which would cause a mere six to nine month's delay.

The Department of Transport decision to agree to the proposals was based on the premise that they would be self-financing. This also appears distinctly doubtful. There is already a glut of office space in central London and no sign of a reversal in the trend to locate head offices elsewhere in the country, nor will BR be encouraging more commuters by closing down one of its stations. It seems quite likely that the scheme will not be completed but that BR will abandon it once Broad St is closed.

Though the aim of BR's plans should be to provide a better service for its passengers, closer examination makes one wonder. Are they in fact merely diversionary tactics to make it easier in the future to close down the City'link completely?

To take just one point - BR has totally ignored the main recommendation of the Transport Users' Consultative Committee for London that high-level platforms should be provided at Liverpool St. throughout the redevelopment. It adopted instead a version of the second-best solution, changed by bringing in the bus link (not wanted by any of the campaigning groups) and the almost useless Highbury interchange (irrelevant as far as Hackney people are concerned).

Evidence of the Bill

The impression that BR intends to close the line was reinforced by its performance at the House of Lords committee stage of the British Railways (Liverpool St station) Bill. Here a number of points were emphasised. In particular BR stressed what it regards as the GLC's desire to divert the North

Continued on page 5

NUPE battle

The Council's dispute with the Officers branch of NUPE over the recent sacking of one senior officer in the social services department and suspension of another grinds on.

NUPE is claiming a number of victories this month, with the reinstatement of the suspended worker, Frank Dillon, being the major gain.

They have also succeeded in disrupting a number of Council meetings and have managed to get three of the District Housing Committee meetings called off because people have refused to cross their picket lines.

The NUPE branch say that the dismissal of the senior social services officer, June Simpson, was in complete contravention of the Council's staff code. What is the point, they ask, of having a complicated disciplinary system if one side can break it at will?

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Ms Simpson's dismissal is a result of personal antagonism between her and the chair of the Social Services committee, Patrick Kodikara. This dates back some eight years to a time when Kodikara worked in Hackney's social services department.

However Kodikara has received instructions from the borough solicitors not to talk about the issue, since an industrial tribunal case is now pending.

Severing the link

continued...

London line to Woolwich (the GLC wishes no such thing, it has merely agreed to pay for the electrification of the Woolwich line to help the docklands development scheme. It has suggested an increase in the number of NLL services to Dalston, splitting there in two directions - Woolwich and the City).

All in all, the outlook is dismal for Hackney's City link commuters. The Department of Transport appears to favour BR's proposals at the expense of any other consideration. Perhaps it is the government's anti-GLC campaign in evidence again, since although the DoT is pressing ahead with this plan, it is holding up the plan for national electrification of the rail network.

John Sanderson of HPTAC is appalled by the whole sorry business: 'There seems no end,' he says, 'to the red herrings BR will raise and distortions of the truth they will put forward to destroy the present City link which they see as threatening their precious Liverpool St redevelopment. The present mini-boom on the line must be worrying - we will soon have the lunacy of BR deliberately cutting services which will lose them passengers.'

HACKNEY PENSIONERS PRESS

Hackney's pensioners are on the warpath and using a new medium. With help from the Free Form Arts Trust and Hackney Task Force a group of them have produced the first issue of "Hackney Pensioners Press".

At this time of the year, heating and fuel charges are subjects of some concern to those involved in pensioners' campaigns. All fuel prices are rising by a great deal more than pensions. In the last three years, electricity charges have risen by more than 60%, gas by 73%, coal by 71% and oil by 103%. Over the same period, pensions have been increased by only 38%. If pensioners cannot afford to heat their homes sufficiently, hypothermia (when the temperature of the inner body drops below a certain level) can develop. This can kill directly - and indirectly through the heart and lung. An obvious wish of pensioners to save on the high cost of fuel can also mean that they use less than the standing charges levied by the gas and electricity boards. It's a matter which has greatly concerned the Hackney Campaign for Pensioners' Rights which through direct action and passing round petitions, has helped to pressurise the Government into getting

the matter investigated.

The first issue of the Hackney Pensioners Press came out over the Christmas period so elsewhere in the paper there are many seasonal items: comments on Christmas present and Christmas past from tenants of Keswick Lodge; a puzzle; a recipe for poppyseed and nut slice; and greetings from Hackney's mayor and three MPs (the Militant's Cambridge Heath Press, which printed the paper, must have laughed to themselves!) There also feature articles on gardening, a pensioners' discussion group set up by Hackney Adult Education Institute and Showtime in Hackney.

All in all, Hackney Pensioners Press - whose first issue was free - appears to be setting out to be a campaigning paper with an actively involved readership. Most of the news articles and editorial comments end with a plea for pensioners to write in and give their views, while many of the features are written by those who appear to be closely involved with pensioners or who are pensioners themselves.

The paper can be contacted c/o 38 Dalston Lane, E8. We wish it well - even though they copied our initials!



Stoke Newington CND

HCND's second area sub-group about to be formed.

Much encouraged by the successful launch of a sub-group in Clapton, Hackney CND has decided to go ahead with the establishment of a group in Stoke Newington. Those in the area who are sympathetic to the peace movement and were previously put off by the trek down to Dalston, are asked to come along to its inaugural meeting.

This will be held on Wed 16th of March at the Old Fire Station, Leswin Road, N16. Jonathan Dimpleby's controversial TV film "The Bomb" will be shown, to be followed by an informal discussion about what the group can contribute to the peace movement, especially in Stoke Newington. Also at the meeting will be the HCND exhibition together with the membership and book stall.

If you can't go along but wish to be kept informed of Stoke Newington CND's future activities contact Dave Martindale on 831 7211 (days). The next meeting of the Clapton CND group is at 8pm on Mon 14th at 42 Newick Rd, E5.

Cruise Protests

As part of the protest against the siting of cruise missiles in Britain, the GLC has organised a London-wide petition. There is, however, no need to go down to County Hall to sign it as you can now do so at Hackney Town Hall, during normal office hours.

The petition objects in the "strongest terms to the acceptance in this country of weapons which are contrary to the cause of peace and which make Britain and London as a target for nuclear attack." It "calls upon the government to reverse the decision and keep this country uncontaminated by a nuclear arsenal which can only bring the horrific certainty of annihilation closer."

Over the Easter weekend there will be further examples of direct action by the peace movement. On Thursday 31st March a women only blockade of the Greenham Common air base and a women and men blockade of the nearby Royal Ordnance Factory at Burghfield will take place. While on Friday 1st April a human chain will be established from Greenham via Burghfield to Aldermaston (about 9 miles). Hackney CND will be sending contingents to both these events. Appropriately enough before this HCND will be holding a Non Violent Direct Action Day School on Sunday 27th March. Further details from Dave Saunders 249 2933 or Jenny Cutter 254 8587.

STARTING OUT

Unemployment has physical, domestic and social consequences for those on the dole queue as well as the obvious financial ones. The overriding problem for the unemployed is how to survive these pressures and to maintain a meaningful, yet jobless, existence.

To give some help in this area, the unemployed of Hackney are beginning to offer advice among themselves. "Starting out" is a lively new monthly magazine (price 15p) put together by the Hackney Unemployed Media Scheme (HUMS) and supported by the Hackney Unemployment Project. On the inside pages, the unemployed express a range of reactions to their situation. One of those out of work is quoted as pessimistically saying, 'I have lost feelings for everything. I've got no hope for the future. My past and its bright future is all wasted now'. Someone else is more optimistic about life: 'I feel quite sorry for the ones on the dole who are less fortunate than myself, but I have learned to cope. I'm sure a lot of people will be able to as well if they put their minds to it'.

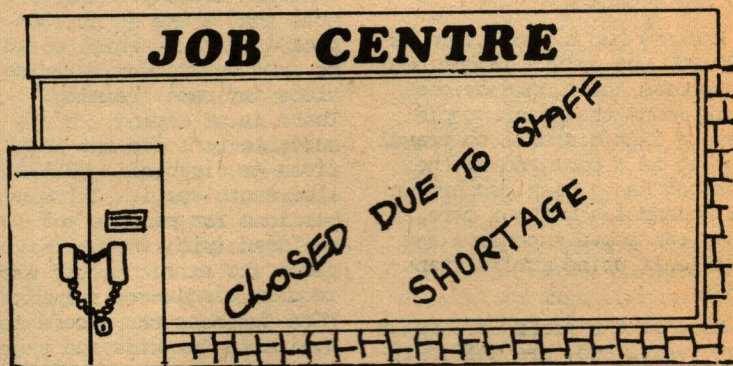
This view is reflected in the comments of another of the unemployed: 'It's a great thing to have free time. You can use it positively or negatively. You can either wallow in the mire or use it constructively. Basically I'm an optimist.'

anything can happen'.

Elsewhere in the magazine, there is a revealing interview with Chief Inspector Anderson from Hackney Police Station. While glad of a chance to open a dialogue with the police, the authors of the article found it hard to believe some of the chief inspector's statements: "...it would appear (from what he was saying) that unemployed people in Hackney are not doing too badly, they are well-fed and many can afford cars though they might find the cost of parts prohibitive! To say the least, these revelations came as a surprise to the HUMS team, all of whom are jobless, and carless." "Starting out" is asking its readers to send in their views on the police.

Another worthwhile section of the magazine is given over to providing clearly set-out facts about signing on, information on the recently established Hackney Centre for the unemployed and on events likely to be of interest to the jobless.

You can contact the Hackney Unemployed Media Scheme by turning up any Wednesday between 12.30 and 5.30pm at Centerprise, 136/8 Kingsl and High Street E8, or by writing to them at the above address. They hope that more young jobless will get involved in the scheme's activities, helping themselves and other jobless by doing so.



SIGNING ON

We are organising a campaign based at the Hackney Centre for the Unemployed to encourage women who are looking for work to 'sign on' and register as unemployed.

It will be based initially on the Hackney Downs and Pembury Estates, although we hope to go on to reach women throughout Hackney.

Our campaign aims to inform women that there is much to be gained from signing on. Most importantly they may be entitled to Unemployment Benefit (if you did some paid work between 6 April 1981 and 5 April 1982 and are now looking for a paid job, you are entitled to some extra money). Even if they do not qualify,

they will get National Insurance contributions credited for them, they may be eligible for many education and training courses and they can take advantage of concessions for UB40 holders like sport and entertainments.

We hope to de-mystify the signing on process by going through the forms women will come across. We also offer advice, support and back-up to women who decide to sign on.

We are keen to involve as many women as possible so if anyone would like to help, contact Amanda, Lesley, Mabinty or Cess at the Hackney Centre for the Unemployed on 985 2366.

BRAVO RIO

Pic: John Palsch



Film buffs inspect RIO auction merchandise

The RIO cinema raised almost £3000 at a film memorabilia auction held on 5 February. Over 500 people packed the theatre as Phillips the auctioneers knocked off items such as Ben Kingsley's walking stick from 'Gandhi'.

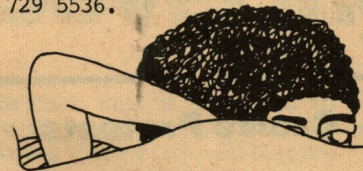
RIO staff had appealed to film industry workers, who responded by sending an impressive amount of film bric-a-brac. A shirt from 'The Draughtsman's Contract' raised £48 and the fedora from 'Hamnet' went for £26.

An original poster for the 1935 horror film 'The Bride of Frankenstein' which sold for £70 was the highest priced item at the auction.

The RIO will shortly take delivery of new sound and projection equipment which will dramatically improve the quality of RIO shows. By late spring film-goers will be able to experience the full delights of Dolby stereo surround-sound. Workers promise West End cinema standards right in Kingsland High Street.

On Saturday 12 March the cinema will host a Channel 4 conference to consult with the East End community. If you would like to put your views to C4 or want them to produce your next video, contact Felicity at the RIO, 249 2722.

conclude, are generally run-down and unattractive. To bring them up to the standard of other London boroughs, they should be made a priority in terms of finance and staffing. If you want to join SPLASH, contact Helen Petit, 380 Old Street, ECI. Tel: 729 5536.



Newsletter

Mid-March should see the publication of the first issue of "Public Service Action". This is to be an anti-privatisation newsletter for the labour movement.

We are promised that each 8 page two-colour issue will include news and analysis of:

- campaigns to stop privatisation by workers and users.
- local government, NHS, government departments and nationalised industries' services threatened by privatisation.

- those companies that fail to meet contract requirements.
- the effects of privatisation on the quality and range of services, jobs, wages and conditions, and trade union organisation.
- the wider effects on the economy and public spending.
- Tory ideology and how to argue against it.

Each issue of the newsletter will cost 30p, with discounts for bulk orders. It is researched and produced by SCAT Publications, 27 Clerkenwell Close, ECI. Tel: 253 3627.

WHAT'S ON

Other events

GLC MAY DAY FESTIVAL will again be taking place at Victoria Park this year - on Sunday May 1. Local groups who would like to take part should contact Ken Hulme Rm. 191 County Hall, SE1 7PB Tel 633 7060.

THE HACKNEY SHOW will take place on Hackney Downs on Saturday 18 June. The theme will be that of Peace. Any one wishing to participate should contact Larry Fabian on 739 7600 ext 488/490.

THE HACKNEY FESTIVAL: this year events will take place during the summer at Community Festivals throughout the borough. If you are considering staging a festival then contact the Festival Support Group on 739 7849. Local entertainers wishing to participate can contact Gabriel West on 739 7600 ext 488/490.

HACKNEY ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS are presenting a number of events in March. A few of the most noteworthy are the following:

Thurs 10: SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS at Stoke Newington Town Hall, 7pm.
Tues 15: PAVEMENTS IN THE SKY a comedy show put on by the Inner City Theatre Co., 7.30 at Stoke Newington Assembly Hall.

Thurs 17: A Club Night with Wayne Fontana and Tommy Trinder. At Kings Hall, Hackney Baths, Lower Clapton Rd, 7.30pm, over 18's only.
Tues 22: Mozarts MARRIAGE OF FIGARO by the Harrow Opera Workshop. At Stoke Newington Assembly Hall. 7.30pm.
Thurs 24: EARTHA KITT at Stoke Newington Assembly Hall. 7.30pm.

Tickets are free from Baths, Libraries, Sports Centres and Information Bureaux. Tickets for Eartha Kitt require an addressed envelope to be taken along.

ADVERTISEMENT.

swimming in Hackney

SPLASH, the campaign to improve swimming facilities for all ages and groups in Hackney, has just produced a survey of local pools. This highlights quite clearly the problems facing swimmers. SPLASH go on to make recommendations for future action by the council.

Hackney had a population of 180,000 yet only 3 indoor pool complexes and 1 outdoor one. This means that many people have a fair distance to travel to get to a pool and as the borough has a high proportion of households without cars, this can prove expensive and difficult using public transport.

Most of the pools were built many years ago, are difficult to maintain and lack up-to-date amenities. Changing facilities are inadequate, the toilets and wash areas are primitive while the showers and footbaths, where they exist, are poorly maintained by the staff.

Pool heat is unpredictable and fixed without regard for the young, old and disabled who need warmer water. To save money, opening hours have been cut back to the level where it is difficult to swim if you work during the day. Even if you go to a pool that is officially open it may be closed as staffing levels are so low that there is no one to cover periods of leave or illness.

SPLASH wants an improvement in these areas. Moreover they note that there is no 100m pool in Hackney which could be used by amateur swimming clubs for race training. There is no diving nor a suitable pool for the under fives or disabled. SPLASH also wants special swimming sessions for parents and young children (with creche facilities); for ethnic groups who require single-sex swimming. More fun sessions should be available for kids and there should be times when the pools are open only to adults.

"In our fitness-conscious age", points out SPLASH, "swimming for exercise or pleasure has become increasingly difficult for people in Hackney." The pools, they

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THE GUARDIAN Wednesday June 23 1982

Tebbit warns of increase until September

Unemployment goes back over three million mark

By John Arlott, Labour Correspondent

Unemployment has risen to over three million for the first time since 1975.

Brass Tacks RECYCLING

Provides basic skills for unemployed local people.

Please support us - come to our shop for good value restored furniture, upholstery, vacuum cleaners, fridges, cookers, washing machines and televisions - or ring 249 9462 and donate your unwanted household goods.

Ashwin Street - Dalston Junction

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109 Green Lanes N16. 226-5930.

★ **MARCH BANDSTAND** ★

★ **LIMEHOUSE** £1.00
7th/14th/21st Five Piece - All girl - Rock, Rn B.
MONDAY 28th From the U.S.A. Blues Guitarist & Vocalist -

★ **LUTHER ALLISON** £3.00
With 5 piece - all American Blues Band - ONLY LONDON DATE

THURSDAY 3rd ★ **HANK WANGFORD** £2.50

THURSDAY 10th/17th/24th/31st ★ **REPUBLIC** £1.50
Sizzling Afro-Caribbean Dance Outfit - RECOMMENDED

FRIDAYS ★ **JUICE ON THE LOOSE** £1.50

SATURDAYS ★ **BIG CHIEF** £1.50
featuring - ART THEMEN, DAVE CHAMBERS, JOHN FRY

SUNDAY 6th ★ **DA-GAMBA** £1.30
Latin-Soul Hot Band

SUNDAY 13th/20th/27th ★ **IVORY COASTERS** £1.30

Reduced Admission most nights for claimants and students on production of UB.40 or student-union identity cards.

music every night

Manor House Tube. 141-171 Buses.

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATIONS WITH THE FIFTH EAST END

festival

March is the time of year for the East End Festival. From the 3rd to the 27th of March there will be a variety of Theatre, Music, Dance, Poetry, Photography and much more.

The East End Festival (TEEF) is a community arts festival set up as a joint initiative between Tower Hamlets Arts Committee and the Half Moon Theatre.

This being their fifth birthday they are putting on the most ambitious programme ever (see the What's On listings for more details.)

A wide range of local arts activities will be represented both amateur and professional. Many will take place at the Half Moon, but major events are also taking place at various community centres etc.

Of the other events that will be taking place a number of exhibitions by "Camerawork" are worth looking out for. These include photos of Brick Lane 1978 and a selection of anonymous photos that were never collected from chemists!

THE EAST END WHAT'S ON FESTIVAL

Events take place at the Half Moon Theatre, 213 Mile End Road, E1. Further information can be obtained from Sarah Williams, on 791 1141, or c/o the above address. Bookings for all venues can be made at the box office, Tel 790 4000. Most events are priced from 50p to £2.50, half price will be charged to school children, senior citizens and the unwaged. Any unsold tickets on the night of the performance will be free on production of a UB40.

Sat 5: Theatre Venture in "Shirley Holmes and the case of the Spanish Indian", 2.30

Aurora Borea in a celebration of Old time Music Hall, 8pm.

Sun 6: A multi Cultural event at the Kobi Nazrul Centre in Hanbury St, featuring Asian artists. 4pm.

Mon 7: Original Mixture in A show for children aged 5 to 11, 2.30pm.

Schools Music Evening, 7.30pm.

Tues 8: Giselle Enterprises present "The Impersonators" a dance drama based on the lives of women who worked as male impersonators in the Victorian Music Hall. 7.30pm.

Wed 9: An evening of pianos and percussion with a new work by Douglas Young specially commissioned for TEEF. 8pm.

Thurs 10: Fergus Early in a unique solo show about the life and death of his father; 7.30pm.

Fri 11: Dreamtiger present a programme of flute music from both east and west. 8pm.

Sat 12: An evening of music dance and song that's not to be missed. 7.30pm.

Sun 13: An afternoon of Yiddish song and humour at the STEPNEY JEWISH SETTLEMENT in Beaumont Grove. 2.30pm.

A performance of two short theatre pieces, 7.30pm.

Mon 14: The English Gamelan Orchestra perform Javanese and western Music on an ensemble of gongs and other percussive instruments. Should be an interesting evenings entertainment. 7.30

Tues 15: Soapbox Childrens Theatre in a fun participatory show for the under sixes, 2.30

Three workshop groups run by members of the Half Moon Young Peoples Theatre present a selection of their own work. 7.30pm.

Wed 16: Simon Linbrick will be giving an open workshop on a variety of percussion instruments. 2.30pm.

Three workshop Groups, as yesterday evening.

Thurs 17: Percussion workshop as above, 10.30am.

Lost Jockey a 26 piece band perform their own extraordinary music- Time Out describes them as "live they're a blast". 7.30pm.

Fri 18: Inner City Theatre Company from Hackney present "Pavements in the Sky" a new farce about the absurdities of local housing problems. 8pm.

At OXFORD HOUSE SOCIAL CLUB there will be a celebration of East End Writing with music and theatre performed by Tower Hamlets Arts Project, Controlled Attack and others, 7.30pm.

Dracula presented by Theatre Whispers in an adaptation of Bram Stoker's famous book. At THE GEORGE GREEN CENTRE.

Sat 19: Second performance of Pavements in the Sky, as above.

Sun 20: Mitali Arts Group in a farce written by Nesawar Ali to be performed in English and Bengali. 4pm.

Mon 21: Auschwitz- an evening of drama and poetry specially compiled to accompany the memorial exhibition being shown in the crypt at St. George's -in-the-East Church in Stepney. 8pm.

Tue 22: Auschwitz, as above.

Wed 23: A performance by the Island Drama Group, 7.30pm.

Thurs 24: St. Peter's Drama Workshop with the band Faze6, 7.30pm followed at 9pm by the East London Youth Theatre.

Fri 25: As last night.

Sat 26: Rock Night with several local rock and reggae bands. 8pm.

Sun 27: Central Foundation School present their annual school play chronicling the history of the East End, 7pm.

Closing Party at OXFORD HOUSE SOCIAL CLUB in Derbyshire St, with controlled attack and others, 8pm.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS: As part of TEEF Camerawork have made available three exhibitions to local venues. BRICK LANE 1978 by Paul Trevor documents the background to the events of 1978 and the response of the bengali community to racist attacks and provocation. On show at the Kobi Nazrul Centre, 30 Hanbury Street, E1.

PHOTOS YOU DIDN'T WANT AND PHOTOS YOU COULDN'T HAVE an exhibition of anonymous photos that were never collected from the chemists or not returned in the processing envelope. At Dame Colet House Ben Jonson Road, E1.

MASS OBSERVATION: THE WORK-TOWN PROJECT by Humphrey Spender. From 1937 to 1938 Bolton and Blackpool were the focus for an intensive

ADVERTISEMENT



JENAKO ARTS AFRICAN FESTIVAL 10th-12th

Cinema

AMERICA - FROM HITLER TO MX This important new film will be receiving its British Premiere at the Rio Cinema from the 3rd of March to the 12th. The film is a statement about the aims of the USA today, their long-standing first strike policy, and the escalating threat of worldwide annihilation. It shows the top level links between corporations and fascism for over 60 years.

CND's magazine Sanity says "...a glut of new information ...go see it" while Time Out describes it as "the most powerful anti-nuclear documentary yet produced...The film will be a revelation to the most informed nuclear buff... at a time when radicalism is unfashionable and idealism a nuisance, America - From Hitler to MX is a jolt to the system. It will give the European peace movement new heart and new direction. It will shock you into action".

ACE Tel: 254 2415
13-15 Stoke Newington Rd N16.

March 3 for 7 days:

CLASS OF 1984, starts 7.45 weekdays and 7.30 Sun.

March 10 for 10 days:

GANDHI starts 7.15, 6.30 Sun.

March 28 48 HOURS

Adults £2, Children & UB40 £1

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107 Kingsland High St, E8

Tel: 254 6677
249 2722

HOW TO GET THERE

By Rail: The cinema is 3 mins walk north of Dalston Junction (BR North London Line)
By bus: Nos 67 76 149 236 243 stop outside.
Nos 22 30 38 48 277 stop at Dalston Jctn.
By Tube: Highbury & Islington, or Liverpool St., then by bus.

| SUN 27 | MON 28 | TUE 1 | WED 2 | THU 3 | FRI 4 | SAT 5 | SUN 6 | MON 7 | TUE 8 | WED 9 | THU 10 | FRI 11 | SAT 12 |
|---|--------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| WRITING ON THE WALL 8.15 DAILY LIFE OF A TOWN AT WAR OF THE CONDO 7.00 | | | | BRITISH PREMIERE !! AMERICA - FROM HITLER TO M-X "THE ONLY FILM ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS THAT PINS THEM DOWN TO THEIR REAL ECONOMIC ROOTS" 7.00 9.00 PRETEND YOU'LL SURVIVE by Leeds Animation Workshop | | | | FRIDAY 4th 2.00 ROSIE THE RIVETER SUNDAY 6th WRITTEN ON THE WIND 4.45 dir. Douglas Sirk 2.30 MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION Dir. Edward Stahl (1935) | | | | | |
| THU 13 MON 14 TUE 15 WED 16 | | | | THE DYBBUK 2.30 THE GARDEN OF THE FINZI-CONTINIS 7.00 dir. Vitorio de Sica | | | | FRIDAY 11th 2.00 AMERICA - FROM HITLER TO M-X SUNDAY 13th ROME, OPEN CITY 3.00 GERMANY YEAR ZERO 4.45 dir. Roberto Rossellini | | | | | |
| THU 17 FRI 18 SAT 19 SUN 20 MON 21 TUE 22 WED 23 | | | | 5 OSCAR NOMINATIONS !! THE VERDICT 6.30 BEST ACTOR - PAUL NEWMAN BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - JAMES MASON BEST FILM BEST DIRECTOR BEST SCREENPLAY | | | | FRIDAY 18th 2.00 BLACKS BRITANNICA SUNDAY 20th THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD LIGHT YEARS AWAY 4.00 dir. Alain Tanner | | | | | |
| THU 24 FRI 25 SAT 26 SUN 27 MON 28 TUE 29 WED 30 | | | | RUTHLESS... SAVAGE... MAD MAX 2 7.00 SPECTACULAR! Only one man can make the difference 8.40 | | | | FRIDAY 25th 2.00 TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD SUNDAY 27th JACK NICHOLSON DOUBLE!! THE PASSENGER 2.15 dir. Michelangelo Antonioni THE BORDER 4.15 dir. Tony Richardson | | | | | |
| THU 31 FRI 1 SAT 2 | | | | COMING SOON DRAUGHTSMAN'S CONTRACT - APRIL 7-13 THE NIGHT OF SAN LORENZO - APRIL 14-20 BATTLE OF ALGIERS - APRIL 21-27 | | | | FRIDAY MATINEE ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE! | | | | | |

TICKETS: £2.00 (£1.00 under 15's; £1.00 OAP's UB40s £1.00)

- | | | |
|-------------------|----|--|
| Fri 8pm | 4 | Benefit for Hackney Peoples Press with Walking Wounded, Parktown Jets, The Fleas. £1.50/75p unwaged. |
| Sat 8pm | 5 | Chats Palace Music Hall brings you Jim McManus, Neville Smith and Liz Kirby. £2/£1 unwaged. |
| Sun | 6 | Noon. Lunchtime Jazz with Ruthie Smith and friends Free. |
| Tues | 8 | 7.30pm. Under 17's Disco. 25p. |
| Thurs 10am 7.30pm | 10 | Jenako African Festival: exhibition and schools workshop (see programme for details) Orchestre Jazira and African Disco. £2/£1.20 unwaged. |
| Fri 10am 7.30pm | 11 | Jenako African Festival: exhibition and workshops for unemployed. (see programme for details) 'Gold and Fire - Steve Biko' - the acclaimed play by Paa C. Quaye. £2/£1.20 unwaged. |
| Sat 10am 7.30pm | 12 | Jenako African Festival: exhibition and workshops for adults and children (see programme for details) Highlife International and Aldeoni E Amigos £2/£1.20 unwaged. |
| Sun | 13 | Noon. Lunchtime Jazz with The Rae James Quintet Free. |
| Tues | 15 | 7.30pm Under 17's Disco. 25p |
| Thurs 8pm | 17 | Music in the bar with Dizzy Watson from Diz & the Doorman, and surprise guests. New Orleans, Boogie Woogie, Jump & Jive. Free |
| Fri 8pm | 18 | 60's night Benefit for Daneford Trust with The Exocets and 60's Disco. £1.50/75p unwaged. |
| Sat 8pm | 19 | The Pelican Club Disco Bring you another night of HOMERTON FUNKAPOLITAN. More music and madness. £1.50/75p unwaged |
| Sun | 20 | Noon Lunchtime Jazz with the Jazz Sviners. Free. |
| Tues | 22 | 7.30pm Under 17's Disco. 25p. |
| Thurs 8pm | 24 | THAP presents "Verbals - A Variety of East End Voices". £1.50/75p Senior Citizens/Unwaged (see programme news) |
| Fri 7.30pm | 25 | Benefit for Off Centre with PHD Disco and Friction Dance Troupe. £2/£1 unwaged. |
| Sat 8pm | 26 | Chats Palace Nutclub present another night of lunacy with Professor Tommy Shand, Belinda Blanchard and the Singing Car Park Attendant! £2/£1 unwaged. (see programme news). |
| Sun Noon | 27 | Lunchtime Jazz with Ruthie Smith and Friends Free. |
| Tues | 29 | 7.30pm Under 17's Disco. 25p |
| Thurs 1.30pm 8pm | 31 | Chats Senior Citizens Club presents Ben Worris recounting his days in the golden age of Variety Free, all welcome. King Cleary on Boogie Piano and Vocals. Free. |

DISBAND SCC

If you enjoy reading HPP and think that more people should read it please get in touch with us if you are willing to sell a few copies to friends or neighbours or at meetings. Even if you don't have the time to get more fully involved, we would still be pleased to hear from you.

Hackney North & Stoke
Newington MP Ernie Roberts,
who addressed an anti-SCC
meeting on 28 February, said:
"The government is taking

They can be successfully opposed through organisation and publicity to inform claimants of their full rights. In Leeds such a campaign combined with a staff walk-out when the SCC arrived reduced the number of withdrawn claims to 18. Let's wish the SCC even worse luck in Hackney.

RIDDLED

"Their doings are known and widely talked about in the community. They have succeeded in grinding fear and disgust deep into the unconsciousness of many people in Hackney. Thus it should be no surprise that when the dreadful event of the death of Colin Roach occurred, all those feelings came to the surface again."

"Reports such as these," HCRE go on, "are often dismissed by supporters of the police as selective claptrap, inspired by nothing more than anti-police sentiment. But if this is so, how can so many decent and hardworking people be misled and take the trouble to beat a path to HCRE's door in the hope that something can be done... Unless there is a recognition of the deep seated and justified grievance within the community at the accountability and lawlessness of the police then the conflict in Hackney will only grow."

1983

Some people thought that an enquiry was not enough, Hackney Gutter Press reported. They felt that "enough facts were already known and thou thought that direct action was vital... It was felt that this would add weight to the enquiry, rather than giving the authorities an excuse to back out. At a meeting the next week mass squats were planned to expose the scandalous situation... There is no shortage of places to go - the number of empty houses is the sickest joke in Hackney."

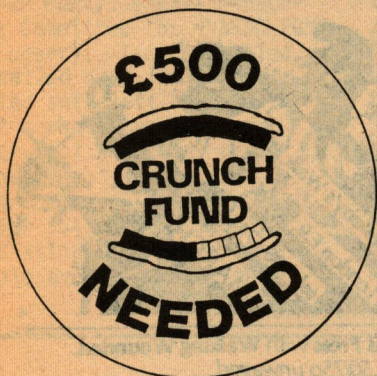
What happened to these mass squats? Where were they and did they actually occur? HPP would like to know more about the aftermath of that affair, but nothing seems to survive in print. Contact us if you've got any memories of that campaign - or indeed of any other activity going on around that time.

Junction housing

JUNCTION (Dalston) HOUSING CO-OP, a group of people who want to establish homes through living communally, including childcare, would welcome new members.

Next meeting on Tuesday
15 March at Centreprise,
136 Kingsland High Street E8

For more information,
contact Sarah or Brad
at 20 Parkholm Road, E8.
Tel: 249 3768.



Donations to HPP's Crunch Fund reached an all-time low last month with just £30 coming in. This takes us

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, HPP's tenth anniversary falls in May. We are determined to celebrate this occasion with a special issue of the paper (which should be paid for by extra advertising) but in order to do that, we must have paid off all our old debts by then. So we must meet the £500 target by the beginning of May.

With your help, your enthusiasm - and most of all, your money! - we will enter our second decade in a position of strength: fit, eager, dynamic, lustful for truth. A model of what a

What ideally we would like is more guaranteed income, and the easiest way in which you can help us is by making out a Banker's Order in our favour. Then we know that we can rely on a certain amount of income each year - and you can rest easy, without worrying whether you've remembered to make your regular donation to HPP, because your bank has done it for you!

And if you send us £10, we'll automatically make you a Special Supporting Subscriber (or you can send £1 a month, if you prefer, by Bankers Order). This means that you not only get a subscription copy of HPP once a month but you also get a free invitation or ticket to any event that we organise during the year.

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